

Second Sunday in Advent



In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near...Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 4, 2016



Our mission at Grace is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today at Grace-Tucson! We pray that this time will be a blessing for you as God comes to you with his Word and promises and as you offer him your thanks and praise.

Worship Notes

The **order of service** we follow is printed out in this worship folder. You'll notice that the service is a dialogue between God and us, his people. The pastor speaks to God along with the congregation and also speaks the Word of God to the people.

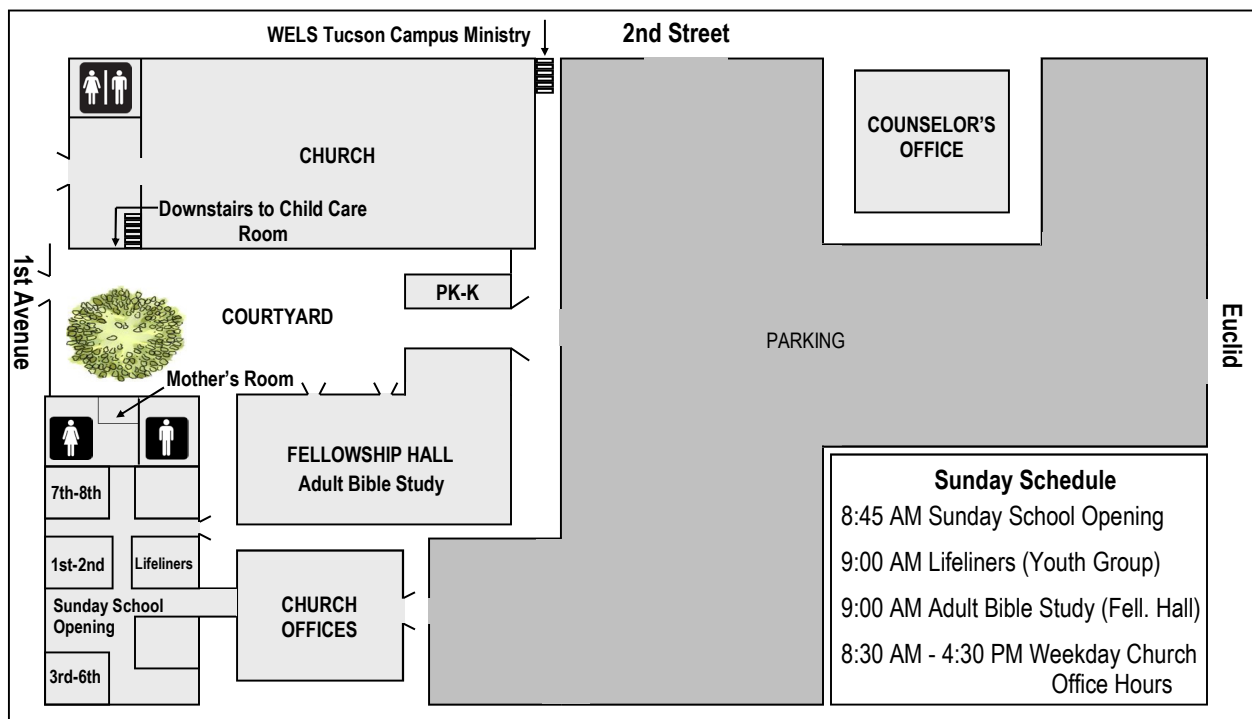
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

Large print hymn sheets are available in the entryway. You may also ask an usher or greeter to get one for you.

We believe that many blessings come from having families worship together and we love to have **children in worship!** If you need to calm a restless child, you may:

- stand for a few moments in the entryway, sometimes that's all that's needed;
- go down the stairs to the left in the entryway—they will lead down to the Child Care Room where you will still be able to hear the service;
- visit the private Mother's Room across the courtyard in the women's restroom—you will be able to hear the service there also.

Printed copies of the sermon are available in the entryway. CDs of the entire worship service will be made upon request from the sound technician in the balcony. It only takes a few minutes to copy. You may also find sermons and services in print, audio and video on our website: www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org



The weeks before Christmas comprise the season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin and means “coming.” In this season we look forward to the celebration of Christ’s coming in the flesh at Christmas, his coming to us regularly in his Word and Sacrament, and his coming at the end of time. Blue is the color of the season, representing hope and heaven.

Lighting of Advent Candles

The lighting of candles in anticipation of Christ’s coming (Latin, *advenio*) has a long tradition in the Christian Church. On each of the four Sundays of Advent, a new candle is lit, dispelling the darkness, as the church moves forward to welcoming him who is the true Light of the world. The evergreen wreath represents eternal life—evergreens do not drop their foliage—and the circle of the wreath is unending. The blue color of the candles symbolizes hope—the hope we have as we anticipate Christ’s coming. The white Christ Candle in the center will be lit on Christmas Day as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Each year the privilege of lighting the Advent candles is given to the youth of our congregation.

MORNING PRAISE FOR ADVENT

This order of service is based on the historic order for morning praise known as Matins.

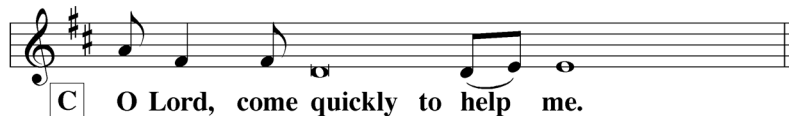
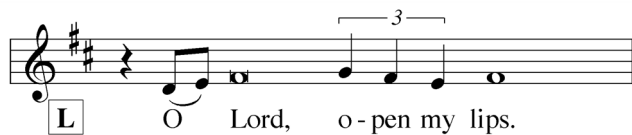
OPENING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People
Christian Worship #14

Please stand

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

L: Leader C: Congregation



PRESERVICE MUSIC:

7:45 AM—
Arise, O Christian
People
Arr. by Dale Witte

10:00 AM—
Prepare the Royal
Highway
Setting by John A.
Behnke

The Angel Gabriel
From Heaven Came
Setting by Paul
Manz

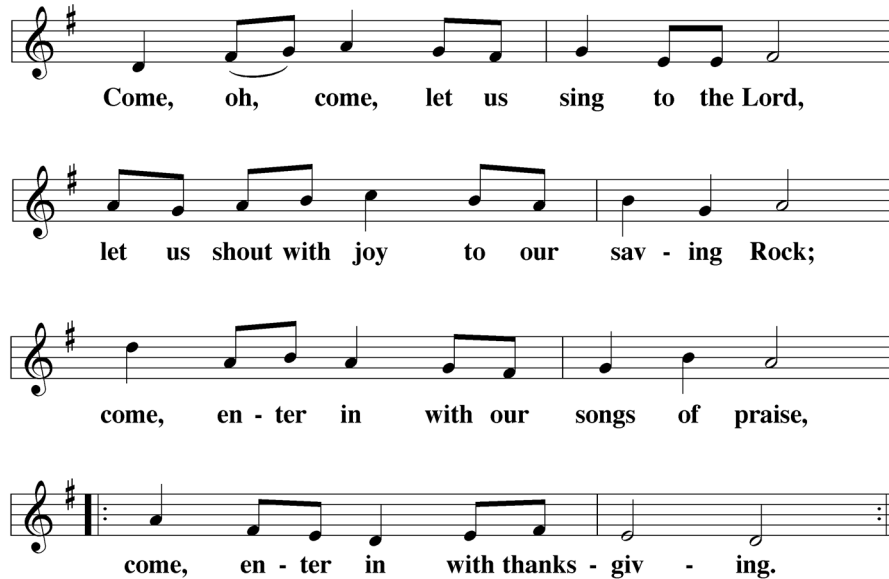
The opening sentences of this service are based on words from the Psalms. We begin our worship service together by calling on the Lord for help and praising his holy name.

COME, OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

Congregation sings the refrain and verses.

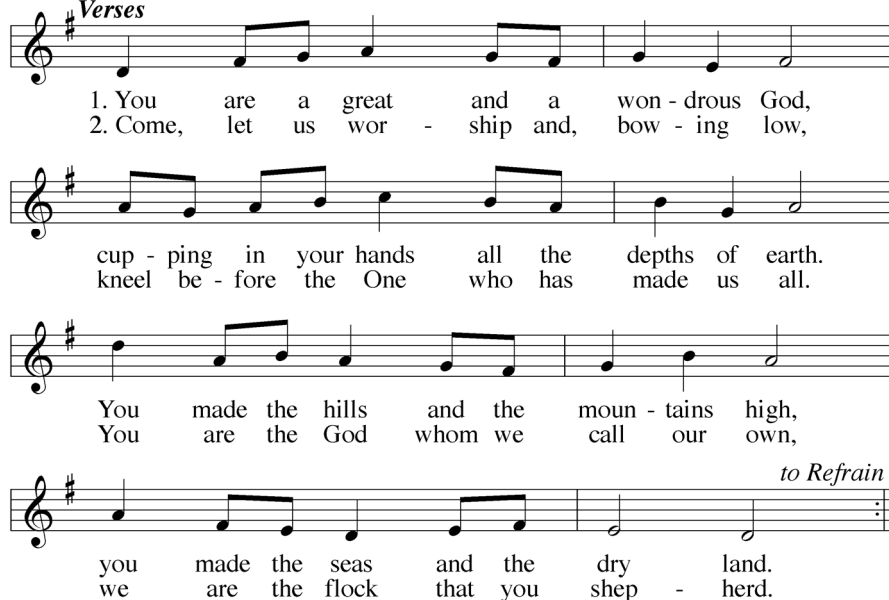
Refrain

*Come, Oh, Come,
Let Us Sing to the
Lord is a paraphrase
of Psalm 95. In it
we join to praise
God who created
and redeemed us.*



Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

Verses



1. You are a great and a won - drous God,
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,
cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.
You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,
you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

to Refrain

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

L: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

L: We hear his call to repent.

C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

L: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Two Advent candles are lit.

FIRST LESSON

Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. So the king said, “Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you.” Belteshazzar answered, “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the beasts of the field, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds of the air—you, O king, are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth. You, O king, saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live like the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.’ This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes. The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules. Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.” All

Daniel 4:19-37 (NIV)

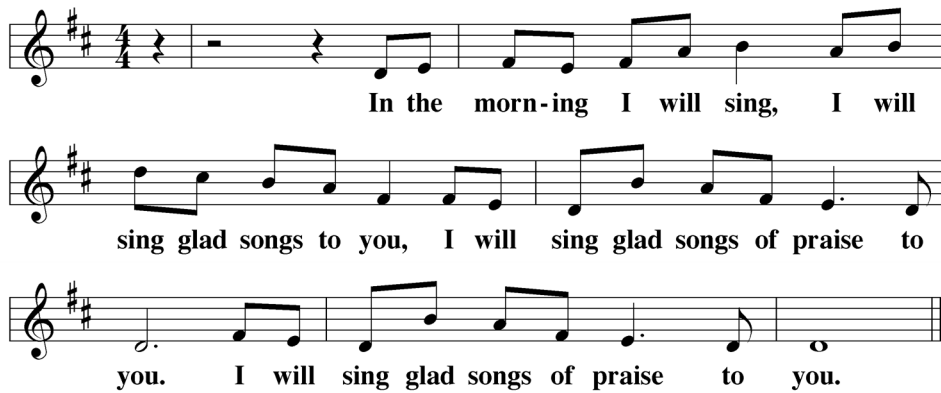
this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?” The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.” Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like cattle. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird. At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?” At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

The First Lesson is frequently a reading from the Old Testament. It shares a common theme with the Second Lesson (often from one of the epistles) and the Gospel.

PSALM 63

Please join in singing the refrain. Repeat the refrain after the vocalist sings each verse.

Refrain



1. O God, you are my God; for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. **Refrain**
2. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **Refrain**
3. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night, for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **Refrain**

SECOND LESSON

Acts 3:19-26 (NIV)

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who

does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.’ Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 3:4, 6 cf. NIV

L: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God’s salvation. Alleluia.

Please stand

GOSPEL

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who

Matthew 3:1-12 (NIV)

warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The congregation stands out of respect for the words of Christ our King.

Please be seated

HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Christian Worship #16

SERMON

Matthew 3:1-12

Pay Attention to the Prophet!

1. "The Kingdom of Heaven is Near!"
2. "Repent!"
3. "Produce Fruit!"

Please stand

SONG OF ZECHARIAH



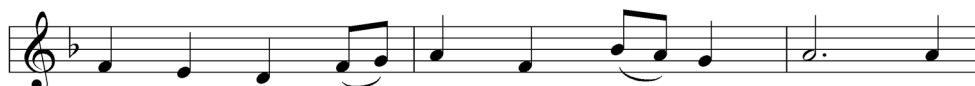
1. Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, Who comes in love and
 2. Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from
 3. In ten - der mer-cy God will send The Day-spring from on



pow'r, Who rais - es from the roy - al house De -
 fear, That we might serve in ho - li - ness And
 high, Our ris - ing sun, the light of life For



liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets
 peace from year to year; And you, my child, shall
 those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our



God has sworn To free us from a - larm, To
 go be - fore To preach, to proph - e - sy, That
 way to peace That death shall reign no more, Sing



1., 2.
 save us from the heav - y hand Of all who wish us harm.
 all may know the ten - der love, The grace of God most high.



3.
 prais-es to the Ho-ly One! O wor-ship and a-dore!



If you prefer, use
 your smart phone to
 give online by
 scanning this
 QR code.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the row and pass it along. Thank You!

Please stand

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

7:45 AM—
 Savior of the
 Nations, Come
 Arr. by Mark Sedio

10:00 AM—
 Lo, He Comes with
 Clouds Descending
 By Thomas Olivers

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

L In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you;
be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.

C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYERS

L: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and reaffirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy. Fill us instead with the joy and peace of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ your Son. Direct our eyes both to the manger and to the skies, where we will see Jesus coming again in glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Special prayers may be included here.

L: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Christians stand for congregational prayer showing the freedom of God's children to come boldly into his presence. The Christian theologian Augustine (400 AD) adds, "We pray standing...as a sign of the Resurrection."

Matthew 6 and Luke 11 record how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We use his example prayer as part of our public worship, trusting that he will hear and answer our prayers.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

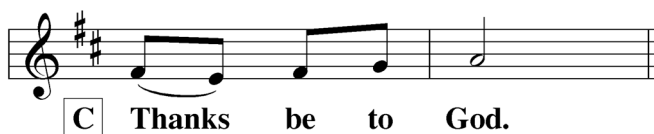
Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is a unique communion of Christ and the individual believer as well as a coming together of people who hold to the same beliefs. Because of these Scriptural truths, we practice **Member Communion** at Grace. Those who are confirmed members of Wisconsin Synod congregations (WELS) are invited to receive the Lord's Supper with us.*

If you are not a WELS member but have an interest in receiving Holy Communion, please speak with one of our pastors after church today or at another time. We are aware that there are a number of other teachings about Holy Communion, and we want it to be a blessing for you, so we would look forward to sharing with you what God says about this Sacrament.

Please stand



We provide **gluten-free communion wafers** for those with wheat allergy, gluten-sensitivity or celiac disease. These wafers are stored and handled separately to avoid cross-contamination. They are "bread" as Scripture requires and are consecrated along with the rest of the bread. For those requiring gluten-free wafers, please take one from the container on the stand located at the front rail as you approach for communion. Simply hold it so that the pastor can see it at the time of distribution.

Grape juice is available for those who for health or medical reason require it instead of wine. Please speak with a pastor about providing grape juice for you on future Sundays.

BLESSING



L The Lord bless and keep you.



C A - men.



L The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



C A - men.



L The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



C A - men.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are
Christian Worship #27

POSTLUDE:

7:45 AM—
On What Has Now
Been Sown
Arr. by Dale Witte

10:00 AM—
Zion, At Your
Shining Gates
Setting by Kilee
Scott

Copyright Info:
Morning Praise: Words
 and music by Marty
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 Kermit Moldenhauer ©
 2002 Northwestern
 Publishing House. Text
 for *Song of Zechariah* by
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Worship Leader Pastor Ron Koehler
Communion Assistants..... Pastor Nathan Kassulke, Pastor Tim Patoka (10:00 AM)
 Education Elder Jason Watson(10:00 AM)
Accolyte Emily Rudd (10:00 AM)
Accompanists Kathy Parra (7:45 AM)
 Tina Christianson (10:00 AM)
Vocalists..... Nicole Peterson (7:45 AM)
 Nathan & Beth Kassulke (10:00 AM)
Guitar Jim Goldie (10:00 AM)
Ushers Vic Thornton, Rusty King (7:45 AM)
 Dave Breitreitz, Ed Ethington, Lucas Guenther (10:00 AM)
 Ferdie Kramm, Josiah Weinstein (10:00 AM)
Sound & Recording Tech Chris Stuhr (10:00 AM)
Greeters..... Ron & Jean Husemann (10:00 AM)
Altar Prep Team Cynthia Breitreitz, Terry Kosanke, Sally Littau

Worship Choir will sing for Christmas services at Grace-Tucson (Christmas Eve--Sat. Dec. 24 at 7:00 PM and Christmas Day--Sun. Dec. 25 at 10:00 AM).

Brief rehearsals will be held both before and after each evening midweek Advent service with a final rehearsal on Tues. Dec. 21. If you are interested in participating, please speak to Director Teri Guenther (235-1177) or Music Coordinator Beth Kassulke (260-3649) for more details.

Key Bible Words is a new Bible Study that began last Thursday, December 1 at Grace-Tucson. Pastor Koehler is leading the study and discussion of individual words found in Scripture that will deepen your understanding of God and his message of salvation. Whether the Bible is new to you or you are a Bible study veteran, you will appreciate this study that will include the different names for God and much more! Class will meet December 8 & 15 then resume on January 12.



The In-Betweeners will have a White Elephant Christmas party this Friday, December 9 at 3:00 PM at the clubhouse of Cinda Drescher & Geri DeRosa (the clubhouse is at the end of the street just south of their home, 5716 N. Camino De Las Estrellas, 85718). There is also parking at the end of the next street, Camino Noche. The meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and a wrapped White Elephant gift. If you have questions call Cinda or Geri at 615-6059. *This is a once a year social activity that is open to all adults.*

Terry Kosanke would like to thank all those who sent cards and offered prayers for her during her recent surgery and hospitalization.

TODAY

Welcome Grace Guests!

If you are a guest at Grace today, we are very happy to have you worship with us! If you would like more information about Grace or have questions about becoming a member of our congregation, please visit the Welcome Table in the courtyard. If this is your first time at Grace, please stop there to pick up a gift just for being our guest this morning.

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship this morning in the courtyard following both services. Fellowship after 10:00 AM worship is hosted by Tim & Angie Schubkegel. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Altar Flowers

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by Pat Messer with thanks and praise to our Lord and in loving memory of her mother, Lois Allen.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

Job 1:6-22
James 5:7-11
Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon Text & Theme

James 5:7-11
Be Patient For The Lord

Colton Reception Open House

You are invited to meet Rob Colton's new wife, Natasha. Rob is the son of Grace members, Jon & Lauri Colton. Rob and Natasha were wed last month in Connecticut. A reception will be held in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall from 4:00-7:00 PM on Friday, December 30. They are serving a catered Mexican buffet, **so please RSVP to Lauri Colton (743-9246) by Friday, December 23 if you plan to attend.** More information is on their website: www.weddingwire.com/RobandNatasha. We hope to see you there!

Christmas For Kids!

On Saturday, December 17 from 9:30-1:00 PM, Grace-Tucson will host Christmas for Kids. This fun event will include Christmas songs, food, making your own glass ornaments, and learning about God's gift to us of our Savior. All children of Sunday School age are invited. For more information and to register online, go to www.gracelutheransaz.org/c4k. You may also pick up a registration form in the Fellowship Hall.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services Wednesdays, Dec 7 & 14

7:00 PM at Grace-Benson
(supper at 6:00 PM)
7:00 PM at Grace-Sahuarita
(supper at 6:00 PM)
10:00 AM & 7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson
(supper at 6:00 PM)

Children's Christmas Service Sunday, December 11

4:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Christmas Eve Services Saturday, December 24

4:00 PM at Grace-Vail
7:00 PM at Grace-Sahuarita
7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Christmas Day Services Sunday, December 25

8:00 AM at Grace-Benson
10:00 AM at Grace-Sahuarita
10:00 AM at Grace-Tucson
10:00 AM at Grace-Vail

New Year's Eve Worship — All Site Service Saturday, December 31

7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson



**Grace is one congregation
at FOUR places!**

**Enjoy worship, Bible study and activities
at Grace locations in
Benson, Sahuarita, Tucson and Vail.**

This Week at Grace • Dec 4-Dec 11

TUCSON Today Worship Services/Communion 7:45 & 10:00a Coffee Fellowship following both services Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal in Sanctuary8:45a Youth Confirmation Class (Christmas Rehearsal)8:45a Lifeliners (High School Group): <i>Bible Study</i>9:00a Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall): • <i>The Life of Christ: Jesus' Resurrection</i>9:00a WELS TCM Bible Study: <i>Who's that Coming?</i>7:00p Monday Handbell Practice4:30p English as a Second Language Classes6:30p		Tuesday English as a Second Language Classes 6:30p Wednesday Midweek Advent Worship 10:00a Advent Supper in Fellowship Hall 6:00p Worship Choir Practice (brief practice before service) 6:30p Midweek Advent Worship 7:00p Worship Choir Practice (brief practice after service) 7:45p Thursday Women's Bible Study: <i>Key Bible Words</i> 9:00a Friday In-Betweeners' Christmas Party 3:00p Saturday Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal 9:00-11:30a Sunday Worship Services..... 7:45 & 10:00a Coffee Fellowship following both services Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal in Sanctuary 8:45a Youth Confirmation Class (Christmas Rehearsal) 8:45a Lifeliners (High School Group): <i>Bible Study</i> 9:00a Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall): • <i>The Life of Christ: Jesus' Resurrection</i> 9:00a Children's Christmas Service4:00p WELS TCM: <i>For Such a Time as This Party</i> 7:00p	
SAHUARITA Today Children's Sunday School9:00a Adult Bible Study: <i>Digging into the Book of James</i>9:00a Worship Services 7:45a & 10:00a Coffee Fellowship following worship..... Wednesday Bible Study: <i>Why All the Different Churches?</i>10:00a Sahuarita WOG Meeting11:30a Midweek Advent Supper6:00p Midweek Advent Worship.....7:00p Saturday Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal at Grace-Tucson9:00a Sunday Children's Sunday School9:00a Adult Bible Study: <i>Digging into the Book of James</i>9:00a Worship Services 7:45a & 10:00a Christmas Ornament Project11:00a Children's Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson4:00p		VAIL Today Children's Sunday School9:00a Youth Confirmation Class9:00a Adult Bible Study: <i>Of Kings & Prophets</i>9:15a Worship Service.....10:00a Coffee Fellowship following worship..... Monday Bible Study at the Ministry Center: <i>Sermon Review</i>9:00a Saturday Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal at Grace-Tucson9:00a Sunday Children's Sunday School9:00a Youth Confirmation Class9:00a Adult Bible Study: <i>Of Kings & Prophets</i>9:15a Worship Service/Communion10:00a Potluck Following Worship Children's Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson4:00p	
BENSON Today Worship Service.....7:30a Financial Peace University6:00p Wednesday Midweek Advent Supper6:00p Midweek Advent Worship.....7:00p Sunday Worship Service/Communion7:30a Children's Christmas Service at Grace-Tucson4:00p Financial Peace University6:00p			

**Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

**830 N. 1st Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85719**

**Phone 623-6633
Fax 623-1514**

**Administrative Assistant
Cora Stuhr
office@gracelutheransaz.org**

Pastors

At Grace-Tucson

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Nathan P. Kassulke revnpg@gracelutheransaz.org
Timothy L. Patoka revtlp@gracelutheransaz.org

At Grace-Vail & Grace-Benson

Colin M. Rieke revcmr@gracelutheransaz.org

At Grace-Sahuarita

Ryan A. Heiman revrah@gracelutheransaz.org

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“Chrismons”

Christ-Monograms

Chrismons are symbols that proclaim Jesus’ name and his works of salvation for us. Here are explanations for the Chrismons you see on our Christmas trees.



THE ANCHOR CROSS represents our certain hope of salvation anchored in Christ.



THE BUDDED CROSS with its trefoil ends emphasizes the Trinity.



THE CELTIC CROSS has a circle in the middle symbolizing eternity. Because it has ancient ties to Christians in Ireland, Iona and Scotland, it is also called the Irish or Iona Cross.



THE CROSS WITH ORB symbolizes the world united under Christ, as the Lord cares for heaven and earth.



THE GREEK CROSS has four arms of equal length. Early Greek artists used this cross.



IHS is the acrostic of the first three letters of Jesus’ name in Greek (**Ihsou~**). Various meanings have been attached to each letter. The horizontal line that forms the cross is the sign for an abbreviation.



THE IOTA CROSS is the first letter of “Jesus” in Greek (**I=IOTA**) combined with the first letter of “Christ” in Greek (**C=CHI**).



THE JERUSALEM CROSS (also known as the CRUSADER’S CROSS) represents the city of peace. The 5 crosses represent the 5 wounds of our Lord. The 4 smaller crosses are also said to represent the spread of the gospel to the 4 corners of the earth.



THE MALTESE CROSS is comprised of 4 arms shaped like spear-heads. Each points to the center, with the broad end having 2 points. The 8 points in all represent the beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10). This is the emblem of John the Baptist. The cross was the emblem of the Knights of St. John, who were driven from Rhodes to the island of Malta by the Turks. Malta is the island where St. Paul was shipwrecked.



THE ROMAN CROSS consists of the Latin Cross and the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (**A**) and omega (**Ω**) symbolizing Jesus as the Eternal One: the ‘First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.’ Though he died on the cross, he reigns in glory forever.



THE STAR (NATAL) CROSS reminds us of the star that marked our Savior’s birth.



THE TAU CROSS, shaped like the Greek letter **T** (tau), depicts the type of cross Moses is believed to have raised in the desert with the serpent on it. It is also the traditional sign that Israelites made with lamb's blood on their doorposts in Egypt on the night of Passover. Therefore this is the cross of penitence and prophecy.



CHALICE AND WAFER represent the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



THREE INTERLACING CIRCLES represent the three distinct persons of the Holy Trinity, yet just one God.



THE DESCENDING DOVE symbolizes the Holy Spirit, remembering the baptism of Jesus when he descended in the form of a dove.



THE TABLET OF STONE is a symbol of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai.



THE BUTTERFLY brings to mind our Lord's resurrection from the dead and reminds us that all believers in Christ will also rise to eternal life. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha (A) and omega (W) are sometimes added to signify the eternal life enjoyed by those who die in the Lord.



THE CROSS CROWN is a symbol of the Kingship of our Lord, reminding us that he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It also reminds us of the crown of life given to believers for their lives of faith.



THE CHI-RHO is a monogram consisting of the first two Greek letters of 'Christ', C and R.



THE FISH is the most ancient symbol of Christ. Christians drew the image of the fish to identify each other in times of persecution. The Greek word for fish is **ICQUS** (ichthus). The acrostic represents this meaning: **I=Jesus C=Christ Q=God's U=Son S=Savior.**



THE 5-POINTED STAR/EPIPHANY STAR represents the star of Bethlehem and is shaped roughly like a human being representing Christ's incarnation.



THE 6-POINTED STAR/CREATOR'S STAR/STAR OF DAVID symbolizes creation. Each point refers to a day of God's creating work.



THE TREFOIL AND TRIANGLE is a symbol of the Holy Trinity showing both the unity of the Godhead as well as the diversity of the Persons.

May these Christian symbols enrich your worship and fill your Christmas celebration with even more meaning and joy!